

## Message Text

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61

ACTION ARA-20

INFO OCT-01 ADP-00 SSO-00 NSCE-00 USIE-00 CIAE-00 DODE-00

PM-07 H-03 INR-10 L-03 NSAE-00 NSC-10 PA-03 RSC-01

PRS-01 SS-15 RSR-01 AID-20 INRE-00 /095 W

----- 065260

O 262035Z JUL 73

FM AMEMBASSY PANAMA

TO SECSTATE WASHDC IMMEDIATE 8073

INFO GOV PANCANAL IMMEDIATE

USCINCSO IMMEDIATE

LIMITED OFFICIAL USE PANAMA 3956

EO 11652: N/A

TAGS: PFOR, PN

SUBJ: EMBASSY NOTE TO ACTING FOREIGN MINISTER

CONCERNING SQUATTERS

REF: PANAMA 3945

FOLLOWING IS DIPLOMATIC NOTE NO. 65 DATED APRIL 6, 1973 TO THE  
ACTING MINISTER OF FOREIGN RELATIONS CONCERNING A SWUATTER PROB-  
LEM IN THE CANAL ZONE. BEGIN TEXT.

QUOTE EXCELLENCY:

I HAVE THE HONOR TO REFER TO MY CONVERSATION WITH HIS  
EXCELLENCY, THE MINISTER OF FOREIGN RELATIONS, ON FEBRUARY 6,  
1973 IN REGARD TO THE PROBLEM CREATED BY UNAUTHORIZED FARMING IN  
RESTRICTED AREAS OF THE CANAL ZONE.

ON AUGUST 23, 1972 AT A MEETING WHICH THE MINISTER OF FOREIGN  
RELATIONS ATTENDED, THE COMMANDING GENERAL, UNITED STATES  
SOUTHERN COMMAND, WAS ASSURED BY THE HIGHEST AUTHORITY THAT  
THE PANAMANIAN GOVERNMENT WOULD ASSIST IN SOLVING THIS PROBLEM.  
SINCE THAT TIME BEGINNING IN EARLY SEPTEMBER THE TOPIC HAS BEEN  
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DISCUSSED BETWEEN OFFICERS OF THE NATIONAL GUARD G-3 AND THE

SOUTHERN COMMAND'S J-3. IN THESE CONVERSATIONS U S REPRESENTATIVES HAVE BEEN ASSURED THAT THE NATIONAL GUARD WOULD ATTEMPT TO RECTIFY THE SITUATION, PROVIDED ONLY THAT SUFFICIENT TIME BE ALLOWED FOR THE AGRARIAN REPORT INSTITUTE TO FIND LAND OUTSIDE THE CANAL ZONE FOR THE FARMERS IN QUESTION CULTIVATE. IN OCTOBER U S REPRESENTATIVES WERE INFORMED THAT ORDERS HAD ALREADY BEEN ISSUED TO THE NATIONAL GUARD TO TRY TO PREVENT FARMERS FROM ENTERING THE BALBOA WEST GUNNERY RANGE BORDERING THE HUILE AREA, WHERE THEY WERE IN SOME DANGER.

HOWEVER, IN FACT, THEY HAVE NOT BEEN PREVENTED FROM ENTERING THE TRAINING AREAS AND IT NOW APPEARS THAT THEY HAVE PLANTED NEW CROPS THERE.

WE HAVE DEALT WITH THEIR OCCUPATION OF THESE AREAS WITH GREAT FOREBEARANCE CONFIDENT IN THE WORD OF THE PANAMANIAN AUTHORITIES THAT THEY WOULD RESOLVE THE PROBLEM. THE FACT THAT THIS HAS NOT BEEN DONE IS A MATTER OF GROWING CONCERN TO MY GOVERNMENT.

WE CONTINUE TO HOPE THAT THE GOVERNMENT OF PANAMA WILL COOPERATE WITH US IN PREVENTING THESE FARMING PEOPLE FROM EXPOSING THEMSELVES, PROBABLY UNWITTINGLY, TO SERIOUS DANGER BY ENTERING GUNNERY RANGES AND OTHER RESTRICTED MILITARY AREAS. IN THE ABSENCE OF SUCH COOPERATION, HOWEVER, WE WILL BE OBLIGED TO TAKE ACTION OURSELVES TO PREVENT FARMERS FROM ENDANGERING THEIR LIVES BY ENTERING UPON AND USING LAND RESERVED FOR TRAINING OF ARMED FORCES FOR PROTECTION OF THE PANAMA CANAL.

ACCEPT, EXCELLENCY, THE ASSURANCES OF MY HIGHEST CONSIDERATION. END QUOTE.  
SAYRE

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## Message Attributes

**Automatic Decaptioning:** X  
**Capture Date:** 01 JAN 1994  
**Channel Indicators:** n/a  
**Current Classification:** UNCLASSIFIED  
**Concepts:** SQUATTERS, LAND OWNERS  
**Control Number:** n/a  
**Copy:** SINGLE  
**Draft Date:** 26 JUL 1973  
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**Decaption Note:**  
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**Disposition Approved on Date:**  
**Disposition Authority:** golinofr  
**Disposition Case Number:** n/a  
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**Disposition Date:** 28 MAY 2004  
**Disposition Event:**  
**Disposition History:** n/a  
**Disposition Reason:**  
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**Subject:** EMBASSY NOTE TO ACTING FOREIGN MINISTER CONCERNING SQUATTERS  
**TAGS:** PFOR, PN  
**To:** STATE  
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